00922

1972/02/07

NODIS NODIS NODIS NODIS

Department of State TELEGRAM

SECRET

CONTROL: 16220
RECD: FEB 7, 1972
11:06 A.M.

C 071510Z FEB 72
FM USDEL FRANCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5540
INFO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 9969
BT
S E C R E T USDEL FRANCE 2369

NODIS/PARIS MEETINGS

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON COMMUNIST TACTICS FOR VERSAILLES CONFERENCE AND ON HANOI'S INTENTIONS CONCERNING RESUMPTION OF PRIVATE TALKS WAS PROVIDED BY GVNDEL DEUPTY CHIEF PHONG. SOURCE HAS ACCESS TO VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS, INCLUDING XUAN THUY, AND FRENCH CP OFFICIALS DEALING WITH VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS; GVNDEL CONSIDERS HIM RELIABLE.

2. VERSAILLES CONFERENCE.

A. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, EIGHT POINTS HAVE DEALT SERIOUS BLOW AT CONFERENCE IN THAT THEY HAVE PARTIALLY "DISARMED" INTERNATIONAL LEADERS WHO WISHED TO USE THIS FORUM TO EXCORIATE AMERICANS AND SAIGON GOVERNMENT "WHICH ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURSUIT OF THE WAR." SIMILARLY, US ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SECRET CONTACTS WAS ANOTHER BLOW TO PRESTIGE AND PRETENTIONS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE.

B. UPON REFLECTION AND AFTER REQUESTING ORDERS FROM HANOI, A MEETING TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY 2 AT OFFICE OF MOVEMENT FOR PEACE IN PARIS BETWEEN FOLLOWING VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND FRENCH CP MEMBERS: NGUYEN THANH LE, NGUYEN VAN TIEN, AND VO VAN SUNG; A. SOUQUIERE, C. FOURNIAU, H. MARTIN, AND A. LEPLAT. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DECIDE UPON THEMES WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPED AT VERSAILLES AND WHICH, ON POLITICAL LEVEL, ARE TO COMPRISE CONCENTRATED ATTACK ON PRESIDENT THIEU AS SOLE OBSTACLE TO SETTLEMENT. VIETNAMESE, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, STATED: "WE ARE READY TO OVERLOOK MANY THINGS BUT WE CANNOT ACCEPT NIXON'S CONDITIONS ON PRESIDENT THIEU. WITH THIEU GONE THE GENERALS WILL BE DIVIDED, VIETNAMIZATION WILL DISSAPPEAR, AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO REGAIN POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE SOUTH. IT IS INDISPENSABLE TO RENEW WITHOUT PAUSE OUR ATTACKS ON THIEU: THIS MUST BE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE. ONLY IN THIS WAY WILL WE SUCCEED IN GEETING RID OF HIM. IT IS BY SUCH AMMETHOD THAT OPPOSITION WAS FINALLY ABLE TO ELIMINATE DIEM AND NHU. NIXON MUST BE PERSUADED, AS WAS KENNEDY BEFORE HIM (WITH RESPECT TO DIEM) OF THE NECESSITY TO DROP THIEU."

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority EO12958

NODIS NODIS NODIS

C. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, FRENCH COMMUNISTS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE HAVE BEGUN TO ASSEMBLE DOSSIER ON THIEU WHICH WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH. MORE THAN 500 FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING 50 JAPANESE, ARE EXPECTED AT VERSAILLES. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE MEETING THE ADMISSION OF FRENCH PARTICIPANTS WILL BE VERY LIMITED; THE 48 ASSOCIATIONS WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO DESIGNATE FOUR DELEGATES. NUMEROUS AMERICANS ARE EXPECTED BUT NO LIST HAS YET BEEN PUBLISHED. THE BRITISH VIET-NAM COMMITTEE, 25 A ABBEY GARDENS, LONDON NW 8, WILL BE REPRESENTED.

3. VIEWS ATTRIBUTED TO XUAN THUY.

A. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE OFFENDED BY NIXON'S MAKING THE SECRET CONTACTS PUBLIC. THEY HAD INTENDED TO RESUME THESE CONTACTS AFTER VERSAILLES SO AS TO GAIN TIME TO PERMIT GENERAL GIAP TO INSTALL HIS TROOPS IN THE PLACES INDISPENSABLE FOR TAKING CONTROL OF CERTAIN REGIONS. HANOI AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTEDLY DIVIDED OVER THE METHOD TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO RESUME THESE CONTACTS. DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE LAO DONG PARTY HAVE REPORTEDLY TAKEN PLACE, WITH A "YOUNG" GROUP DEMANDING THAT PEACE COME AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVOID AN ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE. THIS YOUNG GROUP IS SAYING: "IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT WE HAVE PEACE THIS YEAR, WHATEVER THE PRICE." THESE YOUNGER MEMBERS, WHOSE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE PARTY IS GROWING, ARE ANTI-CHINESE.

B. AS A SEPARATE OBSERVATION, THE SOURCE STATES THAT CIA IS NOW MAKING AN INQUIRY IN PARIS TO VERIFY WHETHER IT IS ACCURATE ATHAT THERE WAS A LEAK IN NOVEMBER ON THE PRIVATE CONTACTS. GP-3

PORTER

BT

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTH[illegible]ECUTIVE SECRETARY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E012958